

Integrated Pest Management 2020 Annual Report



Carlos Agurto (left) from Pestec and Assistant Facilities Maintenance Manager Dave Lavelle (right) review floor plans of the new County Administration Building prior to conducting a preventative inspection of the facility to document potential access points for common pests.

2020 Committee Roster

Jim Donnelly, Chair

Public Member #3 Seat
Resident of Danville

Susan Captain, Vice Chair

Public member #1 Seat
Resident of Moraga

Carlos Agurto, Secretary

Pest Management Contractor Seat
Resident of Antioch

Stephen Prée

Public Member #2 Seat
Resident of Richmond

Andrew Sutherland

Environmental Organization Representative
University of California Cooperative Extension
Resident of Martinez

Susan Heckly

Fish & Wildlife Commission Representative
Resident of Pleasant Hill

Kimberly Hazard

Sustainability Commission Representative
Resident of El Sobrante

Amy Budahn

Public Member Alternate Seat
Resident of Lafayette

Michele Mancuso

County Stormwater Program Representative
County Staff

Michael Kent

Health Services Department Representative
County Staff

Dave Lavelle

Public Works Facilities Designee
County Staff

Chris Lau

Public Works Deputy Director Designee
County Staff

Larry Yost

Agriculture Commissioner Designee
County Staff

Wade Finlinson

IPM Coordinator
Staff to Committee

Camino Diablo Near Brentwood



Kubicek Detention Basin

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Executive Summary

Work of the IPM Advisory Committee

The IPM Committee approved revisions to the [Pesticide Use Posting and Notification Policy with revised signage](#), and furthered initiatives that seek ways to better classify risks associated with pest management practices. An exploration of which pilot projects and external funding programs would best support the County IPM Policy was also commenced during the year.

The Committee developed decision documentation regarding vegetation management at the [West County](#) and [Marsh Creek](#) Detention Facilities. A 2019 review of glyphosate use on County-owned land revealed that the two properties accounted for 56% of total usage among all County operations. The IPM Committee initiated the process in January and approved final versions of the documents in November.

That collaboration between the Office of the Sheriff, Public Works, and the IPM Committee yielded recommendations featured on the next page. These present potential starting points for a broader dialog on how to maximize the use of natural assets at both facilities in a way that supplements the training and rehabilitative function of the programs housed in each location and in similar sites throughout the County.

Pesticide Use Reduction by County Operations

Since 2000, County operations have reduced pesticide use by 95%. The use of “Bad Actor” pesticides have decreased by 88% in that time. The Maintenance Division will soon resume herbicide applications. They suspended the program in November 2018, which is the main cause for the recent reduction. The entire [Pesticide Use Summary](#) can be found at the IPM Program website. Pages 16-18 of this document contain graphs depicting historic pesticide use.

Departmental IPM Programs

The COVID-19 Pandemic added a layer of complexity to a system already ridden with obstacles relating to the balance of natural phenomena and operational needs. IPM highlights from each department is listed below:

Agriculture

- purchased Trimble GPS units to map the invasive weeds they are tracking

Public Works

- [Airports](#): acquired a new boom sprayer to be more efficient in the infield areas
- [Maintenance Division](#): retained a consultant for herbicide recommendations in place of the cancelled Vegetation Management Supervisor position
- [Grounds/Special Districts](#): completed two landscape renovation projects
- [Facilities](#): performed pest prevention inspections at the new Administration Building and Emergency Operations Center

2020 Recommendations from the IPM Advisory Committee

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, these pertain to both the West County & Marsh Creek properties.

1. Redefine vegetation management practices that promote proactive strategies and clarify accountability as it pertains to each site's natural resources. Efforts should include:
 - a. Adjusting how funds pertaining to grounds maintenance are allocated. Proactive and regenerative maintenance practices should be prioritized over corrective maintenance requests. Personnel from the Office of the Sheriff and the Public Works Department should engage in a dialog with the IPM Coordinator to determine what alterations could be immediately implemented that would refine the business relationship as it pertains to vegetation management.
 - b. Incorporating a vegetation monitoring protocol that documents periodic status updates from onsite personnel to the Grounds Division. This may include sharing still photographs and/or video from the security system on a routine basis that keeps applicable County staff aware of current vegetation conditions.
 - c. Provision of supplemental training modules for all personnel, inmates, or volunteers who may be involved with vegetation management decisions that cover the County Integrated Pest Management Policy, these recommendations, and general safety guidelines.
2. Initiate a dialog with adjacent property owners such as East Bay Regional Parks regarding both properties and Save Mount Diablo at the Marsh Creek property to explore formal partnerships that strengthen the mission of each agency. Also consider contracting for vegetation management services in a manner consistent with the County IPM Policy.
3. Where chemical controls are required to maintain bare-earth objectives, prioritize applications to reduce glyphosate dependence and continue to explore the feasibility of implementing alternative tactics such as steam weeding, mulching, and competitive planting.
4. Foster mutually beneficial community partnerships that:
 - a. Allow County personnel to provide a higher level of service by focusing on core tasks, and
 - b. Maximize balanced cooperation between organized labor, community-based organizations, and employment training enterprises, and
 - c. Build on regional models that are financially sustainable and ecologically regenerative.
 - d. Facilitate collaborative landscape programming that allows every County-owned acre to be a shining example of a restorative community asset.
5. The IPM Coordinator is encouraged to play an active role continuing this dialog with other stakeholders in the County. These findings and additional site stewardship revelations at similar rehabilitation properties in the County should be presented to the appropriate body or program for further consideration. That may include the Office of Reentry and Justice, The Public Protection Committee, The Community Corrections Partnership and its associated committees, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, or other relevant programs.
6. At the Marsh Creek Property, consider establishing a site stewardship fund that receives a portion of fees charged to agencies for range usage or consider supporting the development of a partner foundation to solicit supplemental vegetation management funding and to coordinate volunteer efforts.
7. The Marsh Creek facility is encouraged to work with the IPM Coordinator to set up product demonstrations of steam weeding systems, remote control slope mowers, and other related machinery to prioritize which equipment procurements would be appropriate to incorporate into the existing operation.

IPM Advisory Committee Update

The Committee and its subcommittees did not hold meetings between March 4th and July 15th. All meetings since July 16th have been held virtually. Despite these challenges, the Committee still had a productive year. The full Committee met 4 times, the Decision-Making Subcommittee had 5 meetings, the Subcommittee on Grants & Pilots met twice, as did the Posting Task Force.

Three new members joined the Committee in 2020 and three members were reappointed. Susan Captain began her second term of service the Public Member #1 Seat in January. Andrew Sutherland, who previously served a term in the Public Member #2 Seat, was appointed to fill the Environmental Organization Representative Seat representing the University of California Cooperative Extension. Susan Heckly was reappointed to her third term representing the Fish and Wildlife Committee. Stephen Prée began his first term in the Public Member #2 Seat in January as well. Amy Budahn was appointed to the Public Member Alternate Seat in July and Michele Mancuso assumed the County Stormwater Program Representative Seat which was previously occupied by Teri Rie.

During the meeting of the IPM Advisory Committee on January 16, 2020, the Committee chose to temporarily reconvene the Posting Task Force to incorporate TWIC observations and to clarify other components of the policy in order to promote uniformity between the policy, posting signage, and the IPM Program website. The Task Force met on March 3rd and August 25th to discuss the proposed revisions and voted to approve the revised posting policy. The full IPM Advisory Committee unanimously approved the policy on September 17th.

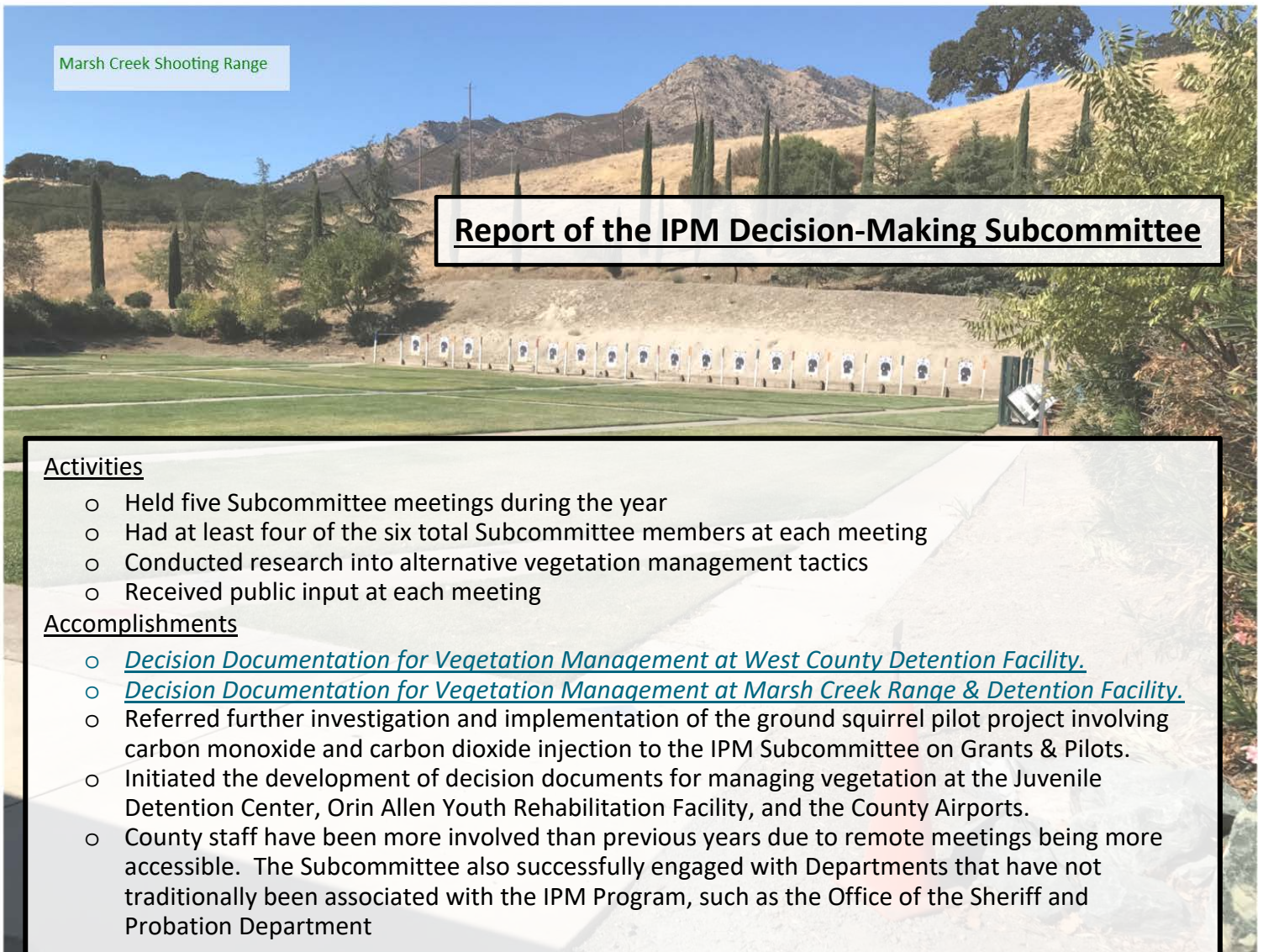


Near Marsh Creek Detention Facility

During a planning meeting for the year, the Committee expressed an interest in reviewing what pesticide classification systems are in place in neighboring public agencies. While there was not enough interest to form a subcommittee on the topic, the Committee continues to pursue further insight at their regular meetings.

In July, the IPM Coordinator gave an overview of the systems used by other jurisdictions in the Bay Area. That discussion led to a presentation of a new visualization tool for pesticide risk assessment in the September meeting. Dr. Andrew Sutherland and Dr. Paul Jepson introduced the tool that may help better understand chronic risks associated with pesticide use and increase the transparency of the process for selecting pest management tactics.

This year, the Committee also received presentations from regional IPM partners. The Santa Clara County IPM Program gave an overview of their Landscape Inventory and Operational Needs Assessment in the July meeting. In September, the Committee heard from the East Bay Regional Parks IPM Coordinator on several pursuits of common interest.



Activities

- Held five Subcommittee meetings during the year
- Had at least four of the six total Subcommittee members at each meeting
- Conducted research into alternative vegetation management tactics
- Received public input at each meeting

Accomplishments

- [Decision Documentation for Vegetation Management at West County Detention Facility.](#)
- [Decision Documentation for Vegetation Management at Marsh Creek Range & Detention Facility.](#)
- Referred further investigation and implementation of the ground squirrel pilot project involving carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide injection to the IPM Subcommittee on Grants & Pilots.
- Initiated the development of decision documents for managing vegetation at the Juvenile Detention Center, Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility, and the County Airports.
- County staff have been more involved than previous years due to remote meetings being more accessible. The Subcommittee also successfully engaged with Departments that have not traditionally been associated with the IPM Program, such as the Office of the Sheriff and Probation Department

Challenges

- No meetings were held from March through July due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The remote meeting format implemented since August limits the full engagement of Subcommittee members and public attendees.
- Pandemic restrictions of County operations have dramatically reduced the amount of information typically gathered from site visits and interactions with staff members.

Report of the IPM Grants & Pilots Subcommittee

Activities

- Held two Subcommittee meetings during the year
- At least five of the six Subcommittee members attended each meeting.
- Researched existing grant programs to determine potential fit

Accomplishments

- Hosted several subject matter experts who provided useful insights pertaining to ground squirrels and setting up valid case studies to help monitor and manage them in an integrated program
- Worked to refine the scopes of potential pilot research projects
- Gained a better understanding of the County's process for applying for and receiving grant funding and identified multiple external funding sources
- Engaged regional experts from UC and other public agencies to collaborate on IPM pursuits

Challenges

- The first meeting was not held until August due to factors relating to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The remote meeting format limited the full engagement of Subcommittee members and public attendees.
- With seven months passing between the original formation of the Subcommittee and its first meetings, it was difficult to clearly define the broader objectives of the body
- County staff is spread thin, and it's difficult to take on new IPM pilots and programs in the context of backlogs in the delivery of other important services

2020 IPM Advisory Committee Member Engagement

	1/16	3/19	5/21	7/16	9/17	11/21	Total Absences	Total Meetings Attended (Including Subcommittees)
Larry Yost	P			P	P	P	0	10
Dave Lavelle				P	P	P	1	6
Chris Lau				P	P		2	8
Carlos Agurto	P			P	P	P	0	11
Michael Kent^	P			^	P		2	3
Teri Rie/Michele Mancuso*	P			P	P	P	0	4
Kimberly Hazard	P			P	P	P	0	8
Susan Heckly	P				P	P	1	5
Susan Captain	P			P	P	P	0	8
Andrew Sutherland	P			P	P	P	0	10
James Donnelly	P			P	P	P	0	12
Stephen Prée	P			P	P	P	0	5
Amy Budahn**					P	P	0	4
Total Present	10			10	13	11		
Voting Members Present	8			6	8	6		
Total Members of the Public attending	7	3/19 Meetings Cancelled Due to COVID-19 Pandemic	5/21 Meetings Cancelled Due to COVID-19 Pandemic	3	6	4		

P=Present
 *filled seat September 2020
 **filled seat August 2020
 ^Designated Disaster Service Worker Doing Contact Tracing



Department Update—Agriculture

The Agriculture Department office has been closed to the public since the middle of March. They were still able to continue with their weed abatement efforts for the season. The Department contracted a few new properties this year. John Muir Land Trust and the Geological Abatement Hazard District parcels in Moraga are heavily infested with Artichoke thistle. The Department was able to obtain noxious weed grants from the state. This funding allowed them to hire two new weed and vertebrate technicians. The Department also purchased Trimble GPS units to map the invasive weeds they are tracking. Weed and vertebrate technicians started about a month later than planned because of COVID-19. This affected how much they were able to accomplish in regards to invasive weed abatement.

The Department's pest detection staff was most impacted by COVID-19 in their day-to-day activities. Pest detection personnel are required to place traps in fruit trees usually in the backyards of private residences. Shelter-in-place restrictions severely limited that option. The pest detection staff staggered work hours to adjust to the reduced workload and allow for greater social distancing. The season was started late and will end early because of the financial impact of COVID-19.

Department Update—Public Works: Airports

The Airport Operations Division completed their second year of managing vegetation without the assistance of the Public Works Maintenance Division. Airport personnel now conduct all herbicide applications at the Byron and Concord properties. Enhanced aviation protocols at each airport site necessitate uninterrupted action to combat vegetal pest pressures. Problematic vegetation at these unique locations can increase hazards associated with fires, visual obstructions, and incongruous wildlife habitation. The IPM Coordinator will continue to work with Airport Operations to ensure all training, application, and reporting protocols are refined to fit within the parameters of the County IPM Policy.

The Division acquired a new boom sprayer this year in order to be more efficient in the infield areas. They report that this equipment has helped reduce the amount of invasive growth in these sensitive locations. Airport Safety Officers also rely on wide area mowers, brush cutters, flail mowers in addition to string trimmers and other hand tools to abate weeds. One challenge faced this year was trying to keep up on vegetation management while allocating staff to a major runway project.



Byron Airport



Planting Project Completed at the Probation Training Center

Department Update—Public Works: Grounds/Special Districts

The Grounds Division was restricted to essential weed abatement during the earlier stages of the pandemic. While this allowed them to catch up at many sites, other details like litter collection and irrigation repairs were not completed during that time. Ongoing staffing shortages are exacerbated by the hiring freeze.

Grounds has had to increasingly rely on contracted service providers and overtime labor to keep sites from becoming unsafe. With the new Administration Building and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) coming online, gardeners are concerned about not having the bandwidth to absorb the new installations.

The Probation Department requested a landscape enhancement project earlier in the year at their Training Center located behind Juvenile Hall. Grounds employees removed dead and overgrown vegetation, updated the irrigation system, and incorporated new mulch and plant material to beautify the site. From an IPM standpoint, the project incorporated cultural practices of mulching, competitive planting, and irrigation precision intended to only water desirable species.

The Grounds Division completed a project funded by Benefit Zone 18 of the Countywide Landscaping District on Pacheco Boulevard near Pacheco Manor. Large pine trees not suitable for such a narrow planting strip and shrubs requiring regular shearing were replaced by Crepe myrtle trees and low-

growing vegetation that is more conducive to the type of maintenance currently available. The trees were threatening the structural integrity of the soundwall and cluttered the sidewalk, gutter, and street with pine needles. The removed trees were chipped and used as weed prevention and soil building elsewhere.

Regarding the District's vertebrate pest program, their contracted trapper caught 4 voles and 30 gophers in various parks and common areas. No rodenticides are used on District property. Annual herbicide use on these parcels are captured in the reports submitted by Grounds.



Before

Planter Strip on Pacheco Boulevard Near Pacheco Manor



After

The innovative new landscape installation surrounding 1025 Escobar demonstrates a commitment to green infrastructure. It will be critical to provide appropriate operation and maintenance training for personnel responsible for the ongoing health of the system. Given current staffing constraints, options involving contracted service providers may be warranted. Many public agencies as well as commercial property managers have struggled to maintain these facilities as required by regulators.



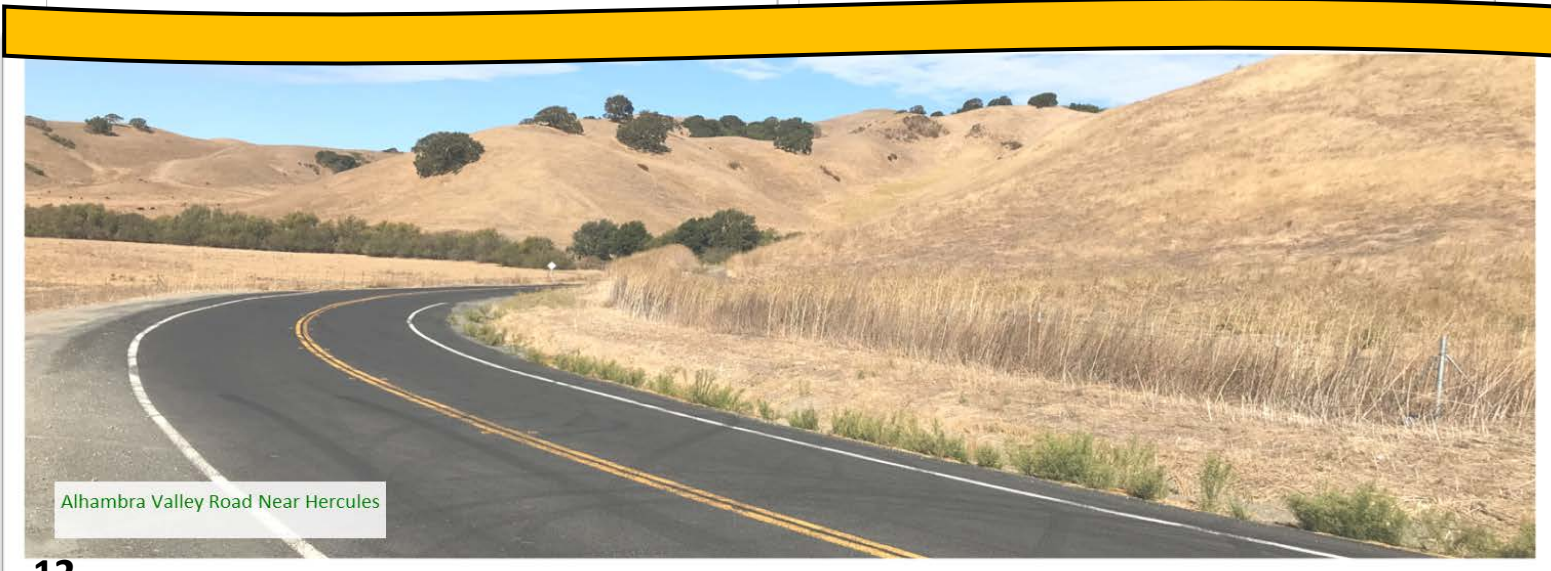
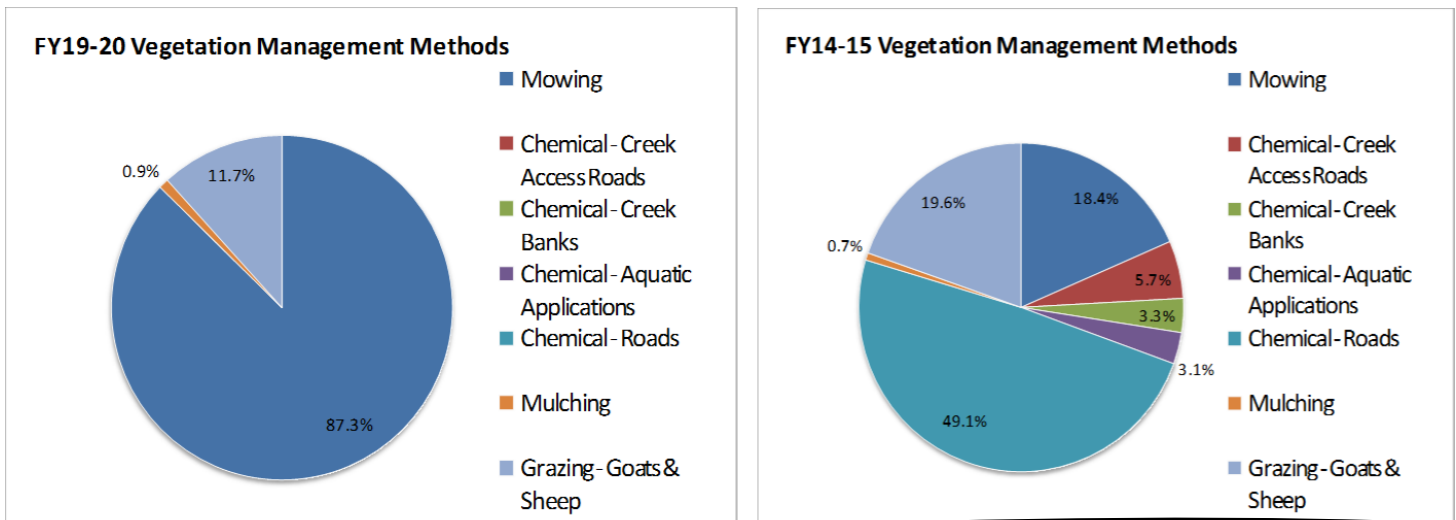
Stormwater Biofiltration System at New County Administration Building

Department Update—Public Works: Maintenance Division

The Maintenance Division continues to provide essential services to customers. COVID-19 has impacted the efficiency and the cost of how these services are delivered, and staff has adapted to the changes. In addition to taking precautions such as wearing face coverings, social distancing, and proper hygiene. Each staff member travels to work sites in separate vehicles unless a vehicle is large enough to allow for proper social distancing. Training programs have also required adjustments.

Division personnel have provided COVID-19-related response, such as receiving/distribution of emergency PPE supplies, making COVID-19 testing site signage, assisted in the setup of testing and shelter sites, and assisted with the closing of parks and recreation facilities.

Mowing and grazing are the two primary methods currently being used to manage vegetation. It has been two years since the Division has had qualified staff in place to use herbicides on roadsides and flood control channels. They have retained a consultant to provide herbicide recommendations and are in the process of filling vacant Vegetation Management Technician positions. The suspension of herbicide use has created a backlog of work and an increased effort will be necessary to address vegetation management needs. The charts below depict the percentage of which methods were used. The one on the left is from the fiscal year that ended on June 30th of this year while the chart on the right compares methods used five years earlier. It is important to note that while the change appears to be good news from the standpoint of herbicide reduction, 500 fewer acres were treated in 2020 than in 2015. Hazards associated with visual obstructions and wildfire risks have likely increased on unmanaged properties throughout the County.



Alhambra Valley Road Near Hercules



Department Update—Public Works: Facilities Services (Pestec)

Pandemic restrictions limited access to most of the County sites that Pestec services. Efforts have focused primarily on the management of outdoor pests such as rodents, cockroaches, ants, and stinging pests. Services have included IPM inspections, recommendations, insect bait & rodent trapping station maintenance, and spot treatments for ants and stinging pests when necessary.

Contra Costa County Regional Medical Center also had restricted access. Entrances to the hospital premises are only permitted when pest sightings are reported by staff. Pestec technicians are escorted and required to wear eye protection and face masks.

Entrance to County detention facilities has been limited since early in the pandemic to reduce risk to inmates. Currently, Pestec is restricted from entering dorms and has only been permitted entry to address reported pest sightings. Eye protection and face masks are required to enter dorms. Exterior services for inspection, monitoring, treatment, and reporting continue.

Pestec has reported 120 conditions conducive to pests between January and October of this year. Last year, 175 conditions were reported. Recommendations for repair are submitted to Facilities Services for correction. In some cases, the County contracts with Pestec for additional source controls including pigeon and rodent exclusion. This year, Pestec installed pigeon exclusion netting at the San Pablo Health Center and eliminated access points for rodents at Juvenile Hall in Martinez.

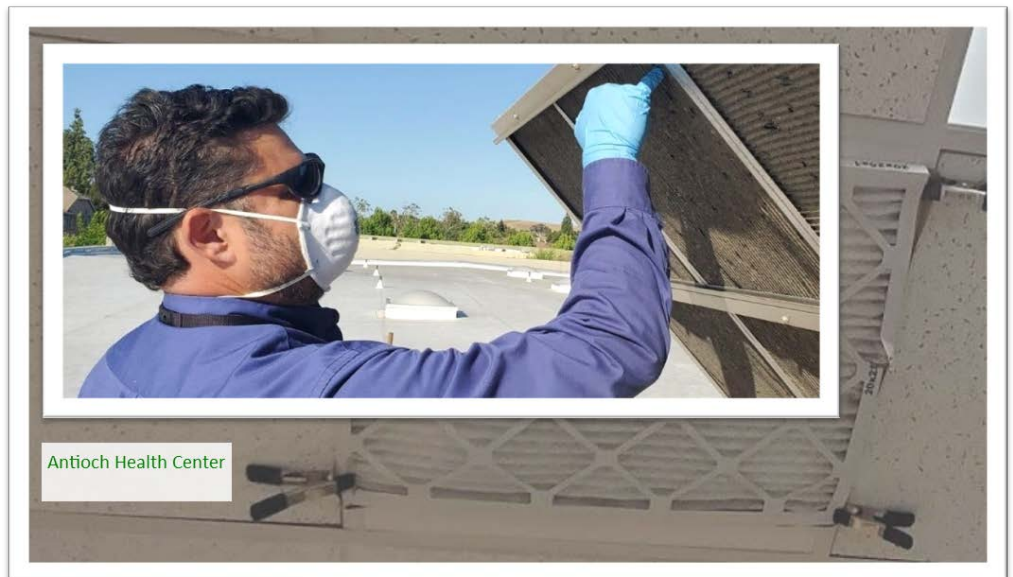
In early August, Pestec performed a detailed inspection of the new Administration Building during its final stage of construction. Pest prevention recommendations were entered into a field punch list report and submitted to Facilities Services. Follow up inspections during regular IPM service visits will observe the status of the corrective recommendations.

A similar inspection was completed at the new Emergency Operations Center. This proactive approach encourages relatively simple strategies to ideally be implemented during the design and construction process to limit the access of unwelcome invaders during the life of the facility. Inspired by a project lead by the San Francisco Department of the Environment, Contra Costa County is encouraged to incorporate as many concepts contained in [Pest Prevention by Design](#) as possible in all future building projects and renovations.



This year, Pestec installed approximately 100 Bluetooth-enabled rodent management station trays around various County facilities. These trays were incorporated into devices that Pestec has retrofitted to serve as rodent trapping and insect baiting stations. The smart trays are designed to connect to an application that the service technician uses to determine if a station needs service. These are being tested to determine potential labor costs savings and monitor pest activity with more precision. While this remote monitoring technology seems promising, further evaluation is needed to determine if the practical benefit is worth the additional material cost. Additionally, the quality of the device and specifically the single use battery may not be suitable for Countywide deployment.

Another highlight from the year includes the discovery of a point of access for various insects. Staff at the Antioch Health Center noticed increasing signs of bugs in a conference room at the facility. The Pestec team believed that insects were coming from the air vents above the tables. A temporary air filter was placed over the vents to monitor for insect intrusion. The paper filter was checked a week later, and numerous insect parts were found embedded into the filter fibers. An inspection of the air handler on the roof found cracks in the main air intake unit with additional signs of insects noticed in the damaged filters.



IPM Coordinator Update

The IPM Coordinator was designated as a Disaster Service Worker assigned to the virtual COVID-19 call center from March 15th to June 15th. He also worked with personnel from the Office of the Sheriff and Public Works to gain a fuller understanding of the critical vegetation management function of the detention facilities in West County and Marsh Creek in order to represent pertinent details to members of the Committee and citizen advocates. Other highlights include coordinating the logistics of virtual meetings and conducting outreach to relevant partners in moving closer to full Healthy Schools Act compliance at Juvenile Hall and at the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility (OAYRF).



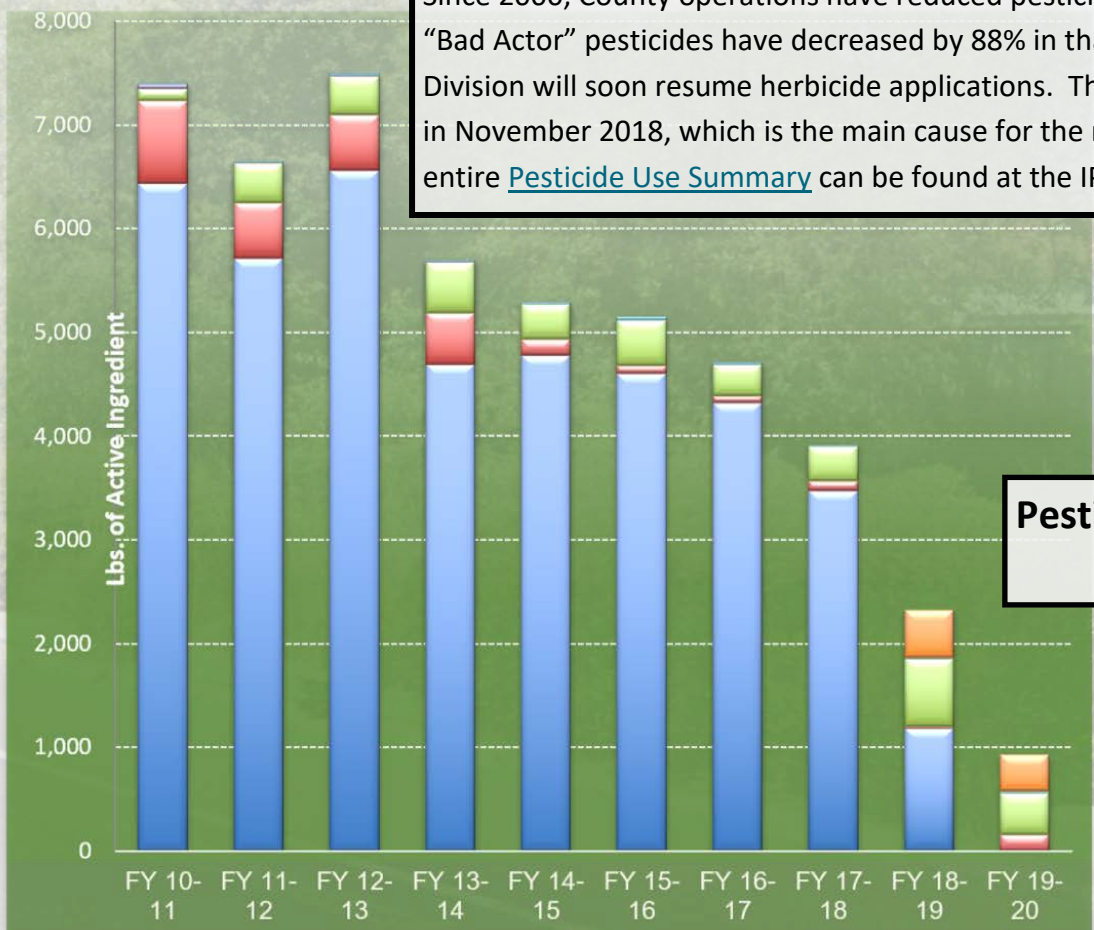
Camino Diablo Near Brentwood

Other Notable Activities:

- Met with the County Fish & Wildlife Committee to discuss the development of an invasive species brochure
- Assisted Health, Housing and Homeless Services with their point-in-time count in January
- Attended the Sustainability Exchange Steering Committee meeting on January 21st
- Organized a Healthy Schools Act training and a product demonstration for a carbon dioxide injection device at OAYRF on February 6th
- Presented the 2019 Annual Report to TWIC on February 10th
- Participated in the Contra Costa County Environmental Justice, Community Health, and Sustainability Virtual Collaboration on June 3rd
- Coordinated a Pest Prevention by Design inspection of the new Administration Building and Emergency Operations Center on August 10th
- Presented as part of an online [Brown Bag Lunch Series](#) sponsored by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation on August 26th
- Participated in a meeting of IPM coordinators from the other public agencies in the region as well as other western states on October 16th
- Helped organize and host a virtual field trip for nursing students enrolled in a community engagement class at Cal State East Bay on October 22nd. Arranged presentations by the HazMat, Green Business, and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs, and the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control Services District.
- Participated in the Health and Nutrition Services Advisory Committee Meeting on October 27th.
- Collaborated with Eden Housing, UC's IPM Program, and Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP) to initiate an IPM project targeting bed bugs and cockroaches at a Property in Martinez
- Assembled and met virtually with a tentative project team to pursue a research grant to improve ground squirrel monitoring and treatment near critical infrastructure. The team consists of County staff, UC academics, and representatives from other public and private agencies.

Pesticide Use Summary

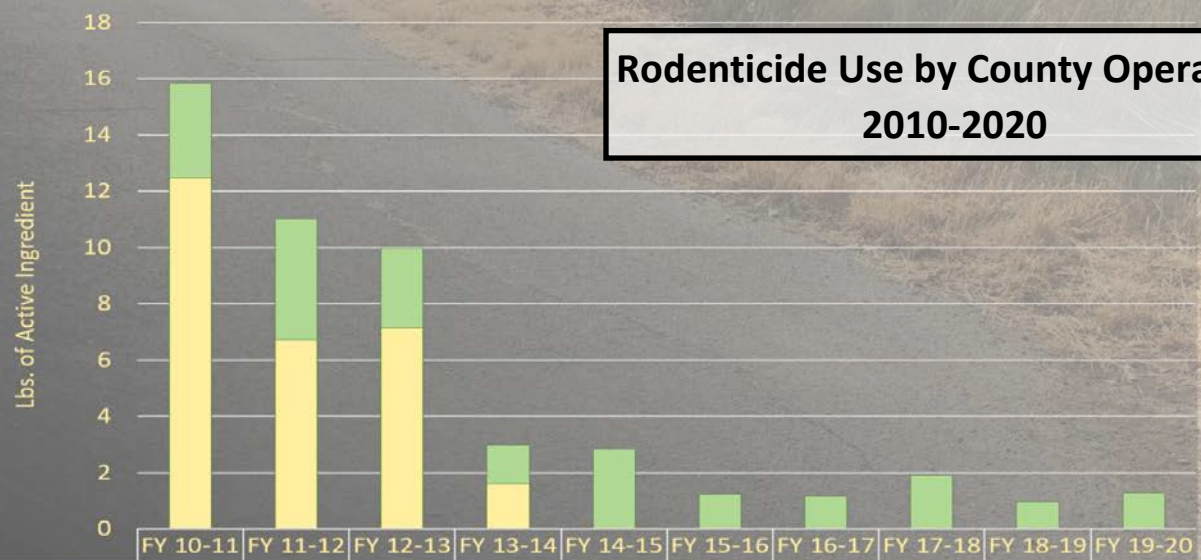
Since 2000, County operations have reduced pesticide use by 95%. The use of “Bad Actor” pesticides have decreased by 88% in that time. The Maintenance Division will soon resume herbicide applications. They suspended the program in November 2018, which is the main cause for the recent reduction. The entire [Pesticide Use Summary](#) can be found at the IPM Program website.



**Pesticide Use by Program
2010-2020**

- Airports
- Facilities
- Special Dist.
- Grounds
- Agriculture
- Roads/Creeks

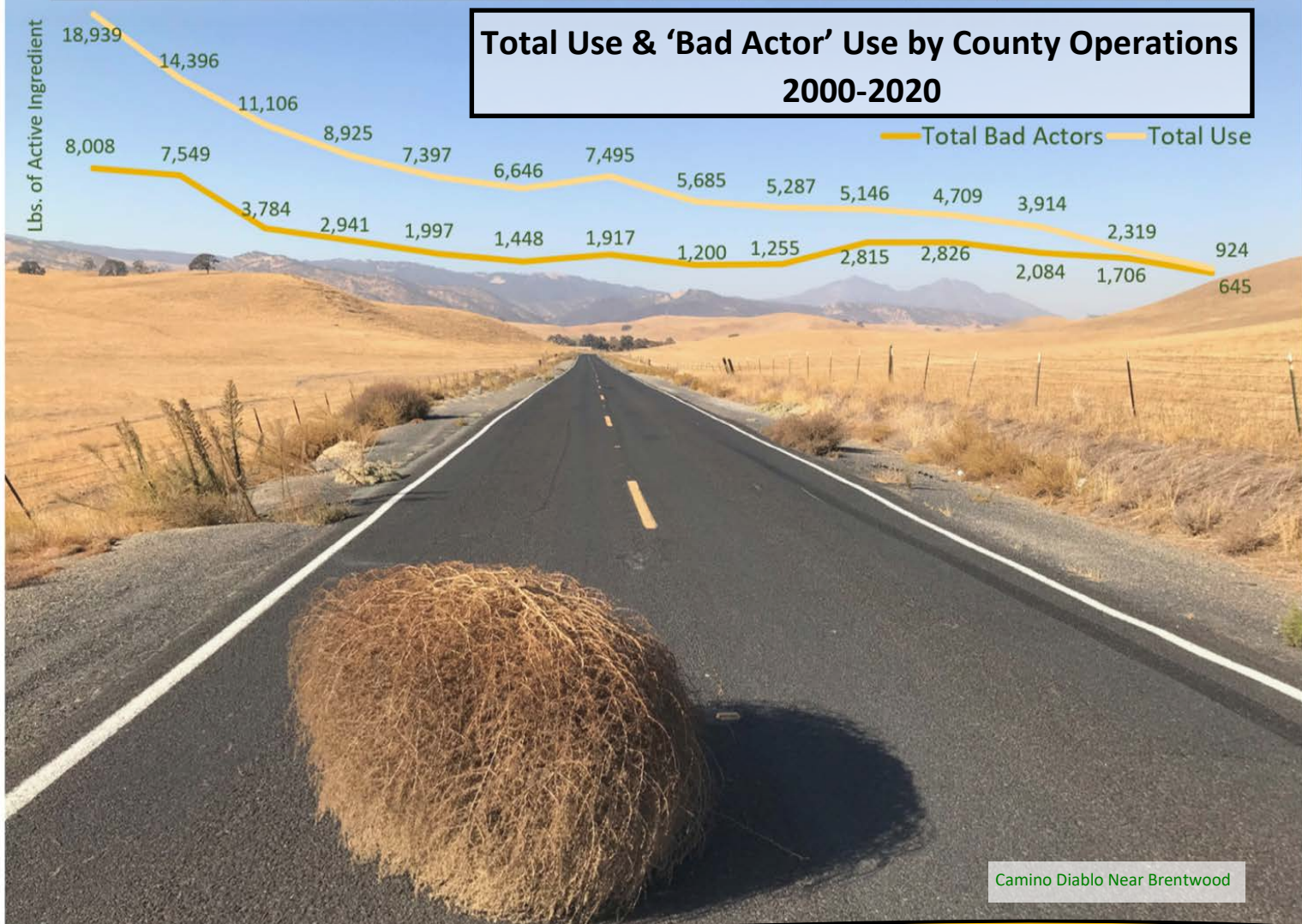
Rodenticide Use by County Operation 2010-2020



■	Agriculture Dept.	3	4	3	1	3	1.230	1.150	1.900	0.960	1.300
■	PW Special Dist.	12	7	7	2	0.003	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000

Ground Squirrel Damage on Trails End Path
Near Kubicek Detention Basin

Total Use & 'Bad Actor' Use by County Operations 2000-2020

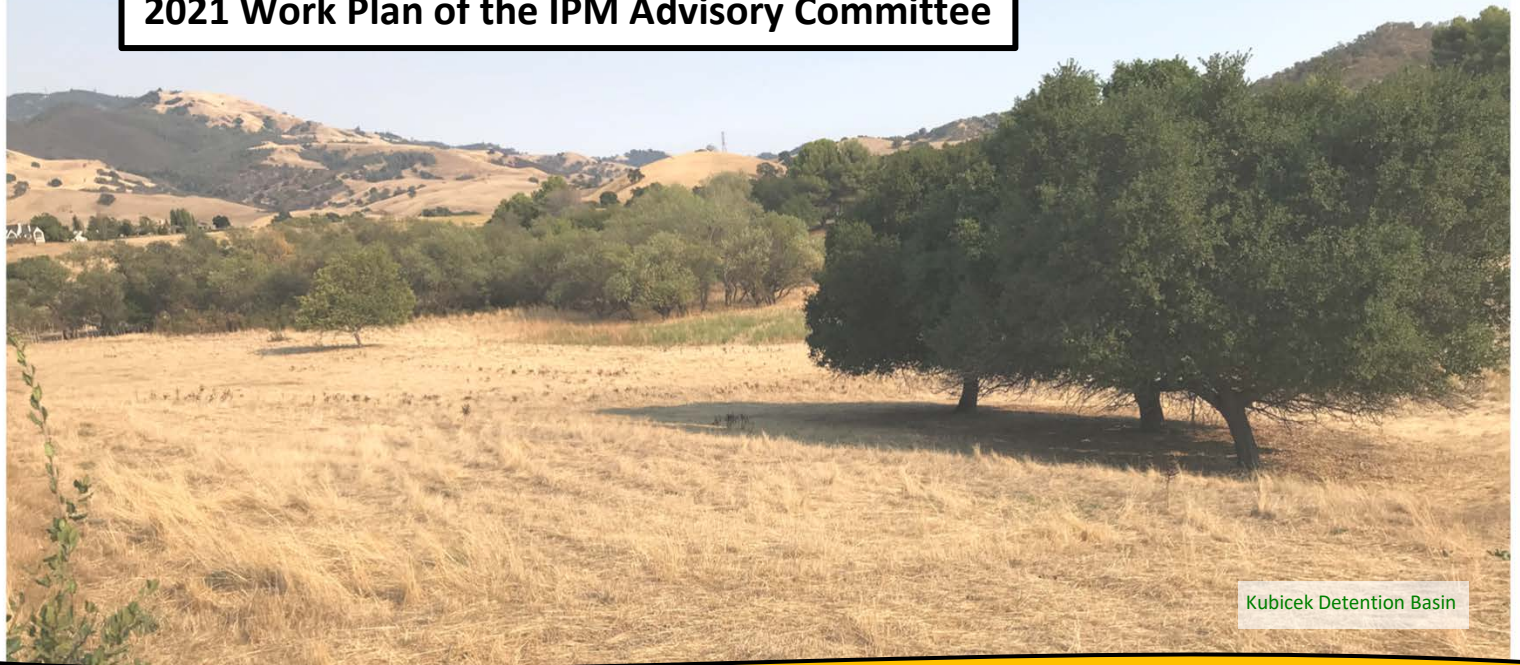


Record of Training

This is a partial list of trainings coordinated or attended by Committee members and County staff in 2020:

- Covid-19 safety protocol and reporting
- Covid-19 disinfecting services training
- Bell labs IQ rodent monitoring system
- Rodent management station installation & management procedures
- Cockroach IPM in complex environments
- Bayer Technical trainer for ants and cockroaches
- UC IPM Pest insight webinar for ants, wasps, outdoor cockroaches, insecticide resistance for German cockroach
- Purdue Advanced Urban IPM, group study
- Inert Gas Injection (IGI) demonstration at Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation facility & Healthy Schools Act overview
- Injury illness Prevention Program training
- Pestwest fly control with Dr. Stewart Miller
- EPA—Bed bugs in Multi-Family Housing and Dorms (90-minute webinar) 1/14
- Child Care IPM Train-the-Trainer Workshop sponsored by the UCSF School of Nursing and the CA Dept. of Pesticide Regulation
- Cal-IPC Non-chemical weed control techniques
- Integrated Germ Management training
- 211 Resource Database training
- From Integrated Pest Management to Integrated Pest and Pollinator Management Webinar
- Contra Costa County's Environmental Justice, Community Health, and Sustainability Virtual Collaboration
- Society for Range Management CAL-PAC Region Spring Meeting
- CDFA Webinar for National Pollinator Week: California's Efforts to Restore and Enhance Their Populations
- Weed management online training for volunteer programs
- State Water Board's stakeholder meeting on Statewide Grazing Guidance
- California Native Grassland Association's 13th Annual and 1st Online Field Day at Hedgerow Farms
- EPA—Addressing Disease Mitigation in Schools, Daycare Centers and Universities with Sanitizers and Disinfectants
- 40th Annual E.F. Schumacher Lectures: Land as a Commons: Building the New Economy
- Sustainable Management of California's Fire Prone Landscapes: Using Grazing to Help Keep Communities Safe
- Pestec presented the structural pest management portion of a Healthy Schools Act training and utilized a 360 camera to generate a virtual tour of [George Miller Head Start](#) in Concord.
- California Fire Science Research Series

2021 Work Plan of the IPM Advisory Committee



Kubicek Detention Basin

2021 Work Plan—IPM Coordinator Initiatives

The IPM Coordinator received input from the Committee regarding the prioritization of the following initiatives listed in order of import:

1. Actively solicit grants that further the goals of the IPM Policy and seek to for the inclusion of appropriate County properties and programs to be included in IPM research.
2. Help refine departmental IPM training to increase awareness to the County IPM Policy, departmental and facility IPM plans, and help coordinate annual worker safety training, annual Healthy Schools Act (HSA) training, and continuing education for licensed applicators.
3. Develop IPM Plans for all sites subject to the HSA.
4. Interagency coordination of targeted grazing services.
5. Implement IPM Program website updates.
6. Identify ways to incorporate geographic information system (GIS) technology into existing IPM programs and to improve the collection and analysis of IPM data in decision-making and reporting.
7. Assess the capacity of adjacent public agencies, community-based organizations, and IPM-related contracted service providers in the region to identify potential contract piggybacking arrangements or joint use agreements that would increase the level of service of underserved County-owned parcels.
8. Develop unified messaging protocols between applicable public and private entities as a resource for citizens calling regarding pest concerns on private property or in public housing that include but is not limited to bed bugs, cockroaches, ticks, and unwelcome interactions with wildlife.
9. Exploration of the County procurement process as it pertains to IPM-related services, equipment, and supplies in order to identify opportunities that better support the implementation of the County IPM Policy.
10. Assess the current versions of Administrative Bulletin 542, the County IPM Policy, and the IPM Advisory Committee Bylaws to determine if revisions are needed.
11. Identify potential IPM-uses for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) in monitoring, mapping, and possibly controlling problematic pests where it is safe and ethical to do so.

2021 Work Plan—IPM Advisory Committee Goals, Objectives, and Activities

The proposed work plan for 2021 is rooted in the County IPM Policy. The Policy's four goals are listed below and on the next page. The Committee has identified six related objectives to accomplish. The IPM Coordinator will support and track these efforts while pursuing eleven congruent initiatives found on page 18 as prioritized by the Committee. The 2021 objectives and strategic activities for each goal are as follows:

Goal 1: Minimize risks to the general public, staff & the environment as a result of pest control activities conducted by County staff & contractors.

Objective 1: Review which components of existing risk assessment systems and tools could be incorporated into the County's process for evaluating risks associated with pest management tactics.

Strategic Activities: On January 21st, the full Committee will continue to discuss the new visualization tool for pesticide risk assessment that was introduced in the September meeting. Next steps will be determined then, but it is anticipated that this exploration will be central to most of the meetings of the full Committee during 2021. The ongoing endeavors of the Decision-Making and Grants & Pilots Subcommittees will likely overlap with themes pertaining to risk evaluation. Likewise, initiatives 1-4 and 5-8 have direct ties to the topic and will further inform the dialog.

Goal 2: Create, implement and periodically review written IPM plans in the Agriculture, Health, and Public Works Departments specific to their operational needs and consistent with the UC IPM definition and this policy.

Objective 2.1: Review existing departmental IPM plans and make revision requests and/or recommendations.

Objective 2.2: Identify operational linkages between certain County parcels and the work of other County bodies to promote regenerative partnerships that may include jobs training, wildfire fuel load reduction, public protection, climate action planning, etc.

Strategic Activities:

2.1: The Committee will review and discuss all current or in progress department IPM plans during the March 18th meeting and suggest potential areas for revision. Any recommendations will be voted on and department heads or their designee will be requested to either respond to the recommendations in writing by 5:00 PM on Friday, July 9th, so it can be included in the agenda packet for the meeting scheduled on July 15th, or otherwise plan to respond in person (or virtually) at that meeting. The IPM Coordinator will also provide periodic updates on initiative #3 to help identify practices that could be implemented beyond juvenile rehabilitation and childcare sites.

2.2: The Decision-Making Subcommittee will receive regular updates on the implementation status of recently completed documents for vegetation management at two large properties. Many of the recommendations that stemmed from that are closely tied to this objective. Two juvenile rehabilitation sites will be studied in early 2021. That research may similarly reveal nexuses between land stewardship needs and service capacity in the community. Concurrent work on initiatives 1, 4, 7, and 9 may further uncover mutually beneficial partnerships.



2021 Work Plan—IPM Advisory Committee Goals, Objectives, and Activities (cont.)

Goal 3: Promote availability, public awareness and public input into written county pest management plans and records.

Objective 3.1: Investigate the feasibility of standardizing pest management recordkeeping across County Departments and centralizing reporting protocols.

Objective 3.2: Assemble a geographic information system (GIS) technical advisory committee (TAC) to explore the possibilities of improving site-specific pest management data compilation and increasing the transparency of pest management decisions.

Strategic Activities:

- 3.1:** During the March 18, 2021 discussion regarding IPM plans with department heads or their designees, plan elements involving record keeping, reporting, and training will also be reviewed. Time will be set aside to receive feedback concerning the IPM Program website. Attendees will also be encouraged to share their vision for what the ideal recordkeeping system would look like.
- 3.2:** Once organized, the GIS-TAC will schedule a kickoff meeting in January or February. The initial focus will be to assess existing applications being used within the County and conduct a preliminary review of pertinent systems used in the broader industry. The TAC will tentatively plan for two or three meetings during the year and be comprised of one or more Committee members, County staff (PW, Ag, & DOIT), and other community members familiar with the subject matter.

Goal 4: Create public awareness of IPM through education.

Objective 4: Review the previous work of the IPM Outreach Subcommittee (2017-2018) to help form a broader public awareness strategy.

Strategic Activities: The IPM Coordinator and any willing Committee members who served on the Outreach Subcommittee will present in the meeting scheduled for May 20th. The subsequent discussion may yield additional items to be considered on future agendas. Progress reports for initiatives 5 and 6 will be given in the full Committee meeting in September. Depending on the success of those endeavors, additional outreach tools may be available at that point.



Goat & Sheep Grazing at Grayson Creek